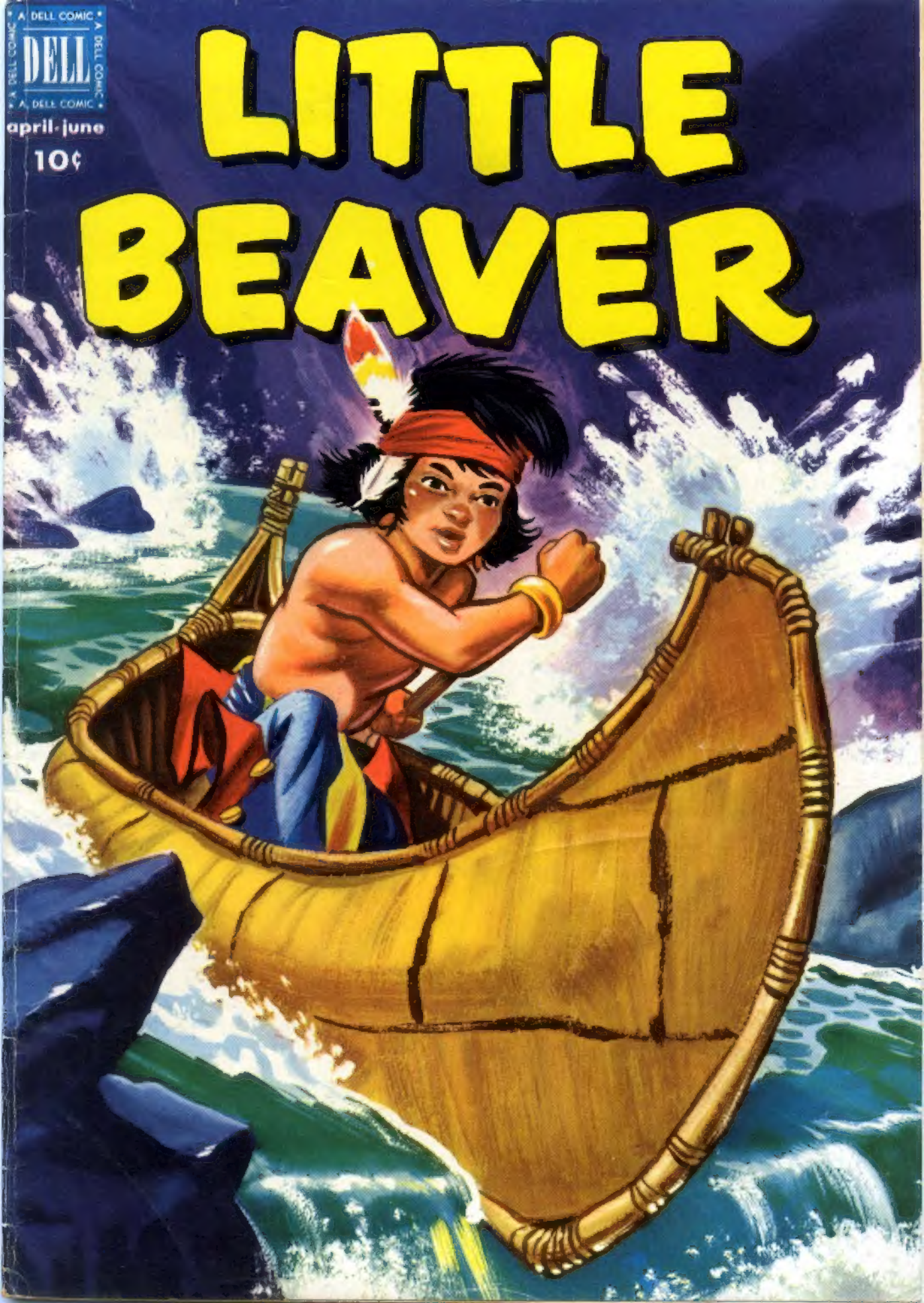
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LITTLE BEAVER

INDIAN NAMES

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RED CLOUD

SITTING BULL

THE STRANGE NAMES FOUND AMONG EARLY-DAY INDIAN WARRIORS WERE NOT ALWAYS THEIR NATIVE TITLES. MANY WERE SO NAMED BY THE WHITE MEN. IN MOST CASES, THE INDIAN WAS PROUD OF HIS NAME AND GLADLY EXPLAINED ITS ORIGIN AND MEANING. BUT TWO OF THE GREATEST WARRIORS, CHIEF RED CLOUD AND CHIEF SITTING BULL, NEVER EXPLAINED THEIR NAMES TO WHITE MEN.

ROMAN NOSE, THE FAMOUS CHEYENNE WARRIOR, WAS NAMED SAUTS (THE BAT) BY HIS PEOPLE. BUT BECAUSE HIS NOSE WAS HOOKED, THE WHITE MEN DUBBED HIM "ROMAN NOSE." SOON, THE PEOPLE OF HIS TRIBE CAUGHT ON, AND EVENTUALLY RE-NAMED HIM WOQUINI, OR "HOOK NOSE."

TASHUNK WITKO, THE TRIBAL NAME OF CHIEF CRAZY HORSE, MEANS AN UNBROKEN OR WILD HORSE, AND NOT A LOCO OR CRAZY HORSE AS MOST PEOPLE BELIEVE.

CHIEF RAIN-IN-THE-FACE WAS SO NAMED AS A BABY, WHEN A SUDDEN RAIN PELTED HIM IN THE FACE. HIS CHILDISH RAGE AMUSED HIS PEOPLE AND THEY NAMED HIM RAIN-IN-THE-FACE. TOK-I-TCU-WA (THE ENEMY TAKER) WAS HIS WARRIOR NAME.

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LITTLE BEAVER

FRED HARMAN

CHARLIE ONE-SLEEP'S STRANGE VISITOR

BANG

OOH! GUN NOISE! MEBBE CHARLIE ONE-SLEEP CATCH-UM MOUNTAIN LION!

MEBBE MOUNTAIN LION CATCH-UM CHARLIE ONE-SLEEP!

HO! YOU STRANGER IN THUNDER CANYON! WHAT YOU SHOOT-UM... BEAR?

NAW, A **RATTLER**! TH' DANG CRITTER BIT ME... FROM THEM ROCKS!

UGH! THAT BAD! BUT CHARLIE ONE-SLEEP LIVE HEAP CLOSE! HE FIX-UM UP!

HURRY, KID! *HURRY*! OR I'LL... *DIE*!

LITTLE LATER... CHARLIE ONE-SLEEP PLENTY GOOD MEDICINE MAN! HE KNOW HOW TO CURE-UM SNAKE BITE GOOD!

HE BETTER! A RATTLER CAN BED A MAN DOWN FOR KEEPS!

GOOD THING ME CATCH-UM QUICK, OR YOU BE IN HAPPY HUNTING GROUND!

DOGGONE! I NEVER THOUGHT MY BACON'D BE SAVED BY A INJUN!

MANY HOMBRES GET UP THIS FAR IN TH' HILLS?

NO MANY! CHARLIE ONE-SLEEP HAVE GOOD HUNTING, BY LONESELF!

WELL, THAT'S JUST DANDY! I'M A LONELY MAN MYSELF, AN' CROWDED TRAILS STICK IN MY CRAW!

YOU BE GOLD HUNTER, MEBBE? PROSPECT-UM?

YEAH! YEAH, YUH MIGHT SAY I'M PROSPECTIN' FOR GOLD! SAY, KID, DO ME A FAVOR, WILL YUH?

ME GLAD DO FAVORS FOR STRANGERS! MAKE-UM LITTLE INJUN FEEL GOOD INSIDE!

NOW, THAT'S RIGHT FRIENDLY! BROWN'S MY HANDLE... JUST PLAIN JOHN BROWN! HOW FAR'S TH' NEAREST TOWN?

BEEHIVE JUNCTION... MEBBE HALF A SUN FROM HERE!

I'LL GIVE TH' KID A LIST OF STUFF I NEED... THINK YUH CAN GET IT, BOY?

OH, ME HEAP GOOD STUFF-GETTER!

BUENO! FETCH ME WHAT I WROTE DOWN HERE, AN' I'LL BUY YUH AN ALL-DAY SUCKER!

TH' LITTLE SQUAW CAN STAY HERE SO'S YOU'LL HURRY BACK! BUT KEEP MUM ABOUT WHO IT'S FOR! I DON'T WANT TO START NO GOLD RUSH!

YOU GOT-UM GOLD MINE UP HERE IN THUNDER CANYON?

SURE! WHERE'D YUH THINK I DUG UP THAT GOLD EAGLE, IN A ONION PATCH?

SHORTLY...

ME MANY TIME WONDER WHERE PALEFACE GET-UM GOLD COINS!

LATER IN THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE AT BEEHIVE JUNCTION...

WANTED $.500.00 REWARD

HMMM! WHY DON'T THEY BUILD A FENCE AROUND WYOMIN'? HERE'S ANOTHER JASPER WHO STUCK UP A BANK IN CHEYENNE AN' HEADED SOUTH!

AIN'T NO SKIN OFF MY NOSE, NEWT! HE'S PROB'-BLY IN SONORA BY NOW!

ME BIG SHOT-UM CUSTOMER OF MISTER MEACHUM NOW! HE NO SWEEP ME OUT OF STORE WITH BROOM, ME BETCH-UM!

MEACHUMS MERCANTILE

MISTER BROWN PICK GOOD MAN TO GO BUY-BUY, WHEN HE PICK LITTLE BEAVER!

THREE BOXES O' .45'S.... AN' THREE OF 30-30'S! NAVAJOS GOIN' ON TH' WARPATH, LITTLE BEAVER?

MEBBE SO, YOU NO HURRY-UM UP, MISTER MEACHUM!

WELL, DANG MY HIDE, LITTLE BEAVER! WHERE'D YUH GET ALL THAT HARD MONEY?

UH.. ME FIND-UM, SHERIFF NEWT!

YEAH? WHERE'BOUTS? SPEAK UP, SON! AN' GIVE IT TO ME STRAIGHT!

I.. UH.. ME FIND-UM IN... UH... MISTER BROWN'S HAND!

MISTER BROWN HAS GOLD MINE! HE DIG-UM MONEY OUT BY BUSHEL! BUT ME NOT S'POSED TO TELL! IT START-UM GOLD RUSH!

WHO IN TAR-NATION IS 'MISTER BROWN'? YOU'D BETTER COME WITH ME, LITTLE BEAVER!

HERE IT IS, SHERIFF! THE IDENTIFYING SCRATCH! ALL THAT WYOMING LOOT WAS MARKED!

YOU GOT ONE O' THEM CHEYENNE DODGERS, TAGGERT?

EVER SEE THIS HOMBRE BEFORE, LITTLE BEAVER?

REWARD $500.00

CASHIER

SURE THING! THAT BE-UM *JOHN BROWN*, THE GOLD MINE MAN!

SO... THOSE SUPPLIES YOU BOUGHT ARE FOR MISTER BROWN, EH? WHERE IS HE NOW?

AT CHARLIE ONE-SLEEP'S HOGAN! PO-KO AND CHARLIE THERE, TOO!

REWARD $500.00

PO-KO UP THERE? WE GOT A PROBLEM, LITTLE BEAVER! YOUR MISTER BROWN IS HANDSOME JACK STARK... BANK ROBBER AND... KILLER!

NOW, LISTEN! YOU GO BACK TO CHARLIE ONE-SLEEP'S HOGAN, LIKE NOTHIN' HAPPENED! GIVE THE SUPPLIES TO ...AH... MISTER BROWN!

TELL HIM YOU COULDN'T GET TH' SHELLS!

THEN, YOU GET PO-KO AN' LIGHT **OUT** O' THERE, PRONTO! DON'T TIP OFF CHARLIE ONE-SLEEP, OR STARK'LL GET WISE!

ME SAVVY!

LATER...

UGH! MISTER BROWN-STARK GOT TWO HANDLES! DIG GOLD EAGLES OUT-UM BANK! HIM PRETEND BE PROSPECTOR...

HERE ARE GROCERIES, MISTER **B-B-BROWN**...COME ON, PO-KO! WE GO! GRANDMOTHER GET FRETTY!

YOU BE-UM SILLY! GRAN'MOTHER NOT FRET! SHE IN ALBUQUERQUE!

YOU COME, PO-KO! ME NO CARE IF GRAN'MA IN POPPADOODALUS! YOU **COME!**

ME NOT GO SO FAST!

AH-H-H / THERE'S A COYOTE IN TH' HENHOUSE / THAT LITTLE INJUN KNOWS TOO MUCH!

NO DANG INJUN'S GOIN' TO PUT MY NECK IN A ROPE COLLAR!

LEAVE-UM LITTLE BEAVER BE....!

SO YOU WANT IN ON THIS, DO YUH, MUDJEKEEWIS? WELL, HELP... YOURSELF!

THAT DRATTED LITTLE SQUAW! SHE'LL HAVE TH' WHOLE SHEBANG ON TOP O' ME IN NO TIME! I GOTTA VAMOOSE!

BANG!

BANG!

THAT TAKES CARE OF THEM! THEY WON'T TEAR THEM RAWHIDE WRAPPIN'S LOOSE WITH THEIR TEETH!

THAT OL' INJUN SURE FIXED UP MY SNAKEBITE! I'M SORTA GLAD I DIDN'T BLOW OUT HIS LAMP...

MAKE FAR APART TRACKS, HOSS! GIT!

UGH! RAWHIDE HEAP TIGHT! KICK-UM OVER WATER BUCKET, LITTLE BEAVER!

IS NO TIME MAKE MUD PIES, CHARLIE ONE-SLEEP! OH, WELL.. HOKAY!

HO! RAWHIDE GET WET! STRETCH GOOD! OL' CHARLIE GET-UM LOOSE! HEAP SMART INJUN!

AI-EE! PO-KO GOT AWAY! SHE CALL SHERIFF, ME BETCH-UM!

UGH! WE CATCH-UM PALEFACE BANK ROBBUM! SHERIFF'S POSSUM MAKE HEAP NOISE! SCARE DEER, BEAR, WILD TURKEY! SPOIL-UM CHARLIE'S HUNTING!

WHERE YOU THINK MISTER BROWN-STARK HEAD FOR, CHARLIE ONE-SLEEP?

HIM HIT FOR SQUAW RIDGE! OUT OTHER SIDE OLD SMOKEY, ME RECKON!

MEANTIME, ON THE LOWER TRAIL...

SHERIFF..! BAD MANS IN CHARLIE ONE-SLEEP'S HOGAN! HIT CHARLIE WITH FIST! MEBBE KILL-UM! CATCH LITTLE BEAVER! AI-EE-EE!

ALL RIGHT, PO-KO! ..YOU STAY BACK, GAL! THERE'LL BE GUNSMOKE A-PLENTY! I DON'T WANT YOU STOPPIN' A BULLET!... C'MON, MEN!

HANDSOME JACK'S FLEW TH' COOP, BOYS! BUT WHERE'S LITTLE BEAVER AN' OL' CHARLIE ONE-SLEEP?

MEBBE HE DUMPED 'EM IN A DRY WASH, SHERIFF! HE'S A ORNERY CUSS!

WE'LL HEAD TOWARD SQUAW RIDGE! AL SIEBER'S UP THERE WITH SOME O'TH' BOYS!

GOOD! AL KIN TRAIL A BUZZARD IN A SAND STORM!

WE WALK-UM FROM HERE! MAKE BETTER TIME! NO CAN MAKE HORSEFLY! HEAP JOKE! UGH!

UGH!

HOLD-UM! BIG BANG-BANG OVER HUMP... MEBBE NOT TOO FAR... WE LOOK-UM!

SOUND LIKE MISTER BROWN STARK HAVE HEAP TROUBLES, ME BETCH-UM!

BLAM

BLAM

AI-EE! THERE BE MAN WHO HIT-UM CHARLIE ONE-SLEEP WITH FIST!.. NOW CHARLIE HIT-UM BACK...WITH FIRE-STICK!

NO SHOOT-UM IN BACK, CHARLIE! IS BAD MEDICINE!

BLAM

BLAM

OH, ME FIGHT FAIR, HOKAY! EE-YA-AA-AA!

THAT MAKE-UM TURNABOUT! HIM ALMOST GET YOU THAT TIME, CHARLIE! DUCK-UM!

OOPS! GUN NO GO! SNAP-UM AGAIN! WAS MISFIRE, MEBBE!

UGH! CHARLIE GET-UM OLD AN' CARELESS! HE FORGET TO BRING CARTRIDGE ALONG!

CLICK

ME SAVE-UM ONE ROUND FOR TIME LIKE THIS! THEN LEAVE-UM BACK AT HOGAN!

ME GOT ARROWS, NO BOW! YOU GOT GUN... NO BULLET!

CHARLIE HAVE WRONG KIND GUN! NO SHOOT-UM ARROWS!

YOU STAY-UM HERE! ME GO GET BANG-BULLET!

THREE LOADS LEFT! DURN INJUN KID DIDN'T BRING SHELLS FROM TOWN!... I GOTTA LIGHT A SHUCK OUT OF HERE!

MEBBE I CAN WORK IT TO KEEP THEM LAWDOGS HOLED UP FOR A SPELL... LEASTWAYS TILL I GET A HEAD START!

HOW'LL I DO IT, THOUGH? DOGGONE! I GOT'ER!

OL' FAITHFUL, YOU'RE GOIN' TO EARN SALT TODAY!.. YUH LIKE SALT, DON'T YUH? YUH DANG ORNERY CRITTER... YUH'LL **GET** SOME!

IT'S A LONG CHANCE THIS'LL WORK... BUT IT BEATS A STRIPED SUIT AN' A CLOSE HAIRCUT!

GIVE ME TEN MINUTES AN' I'LL BE LONG GONE... LIKE A COW POKE'S PAY CHECK!..

ALL I GOT TO DO IS FIND TH' GHOST TRAIL TH' BOYS IN WYOMIN' TOLD ME ABOUT!

MISTER BROWN STARK LEAVE-UM! ...AND MISTER LAW NO SAVVY!.. THEY NO HEAR ME... BUT I MAKE INJUN SIGN!

LOOK! THAR'S LITTLE BEAVER! WHAT'S HE TRYIN' TO TELL US?

HE'S SAYIN' TH' SKONK HAS LEFT HIS HOLE, NEWT!.. NO MORE GUNFIRE FROM HAND-SOME JACK!

WHUT D'YUH **MEAN**, NO MORE GUNFIRE?

RECKON OUR BIRD'S STILL ROOSTIN', SHERIFF! WE'LL HAVE T' SMOKE HIM OUT!

BANG

SIGN TALK NO GOOD! JUST MAKE-UM LAWMEN SHOOT HARDER!.. WHERE CHARLIE ONE-SLEEP?.. UGH! MISTER BROWN STARK GET HEAP FAR OFF MUCH FAST!

BANG! BANG!

ME TRAIL-UM BAD MAN! CHARLIE ONE-SLEEP PLAY-RING-AROUND-A-ROSIE!

WAUGH! ALL GONE-UM! WHITE-EYES BANDIT LEAVE-UM LAW

POSSUM SHOOT-ING HOLES IN AIR!

LITTLE BEAVER FOLLOW BADMAN! HIM GET IN HEAP HOT-UM WATER!.. ME READ SIGN THAT WAY!

TRAIL LEAD TO DEAD MAN GULCH!.. ME KNOW SHORT CUT! HURRY-UP FAST, MEBBE BE NOT TOO MUCH LATE! GET-UM MISTER BROWN PRONTO!

HO! THERE HIM!

UGH! THERE GO CHARLIE'S ONLY CARTRIDGE! SHOULD SIT-UM WITH SQUAWS AND WEAVE RUGS! GET-UM HEAP CARELESS IN OLD AGE!

BOOM!

OOF!

'IS MISTER BROWN STARK'S HORSE! ME HEAR CHARLIE ONE-SLEEP'S OL' SHARP'S GO **BOOM!** OLD GUN HAVE VOICE LIKE BULL!

BAD MAN GONE! CHARLIE JUMP-UM UP AND DOWN LIKE LOCO! WHAT COOK-UM?

OH...THERE YOU BE-UM, MISTER BROWN! WHAT YOU DO DOWN THERE? PICK-UM 'WILD FLOWER? HA!

GET ME OUTA HERE, KID! GIT ME OUT O' HERE! I'LL MAKE YUH RICH!

TIE-UM GUNBELT TO ROPE FIRST... THEN ME MAKE SURE YOU NO PLAY MORE TRICKS!

HURRY UP, THEN! HURRY UP! THIS TREE AIN'T GOIN' TO STAY PUT MUCH LONGER!

I'LL GIVE YUH MY GUN WHEN I GET TOP-SIDE, INJUN! I'M SCARED, BOY! IT'S A HUNDRED FEET TO THEM ROCKS!

ME SAY GUNBELT COME UP FIRST, ME MEAN IT! OR LITTLE BEAVER JUST DROP ROPE AND LEAVE-UM BAD MAN OUT ON LIMB!

NO TRUST-UM OUTLAW WITH GUN!.. MUCH BETTER THIS WAY!

THIS TREE'S... PULLIN' OUT... BY TH'... ROOTS!

WHY, HOW DO, MISTER BROWN? YOU GET-UM ALL HOTTED UP OVER NOTHING, ME THINK-UM!

WHEW!.. DURN YORE HIDE! YUH SCARED ME OUTA TEN YEARS' GROWTH! ...OOF!

HOW OLD CIVIL WAR SONG GO, MISTER BROWN?..." JOHN BROWN'S BODY LIES A MOLDING IN-UM GRAVY!"

AW, SHUT UP!

HOW, SHERIFF NEWT! ME CATCH-UM GROUND HOG WHO DIG GOLD EAGLES OUT OF MINE, YOU BETCH-UM!

GOOD WORK, LITTLE BEAVER!. BY GEORGE, YOU'RE A BETTER SHERIFF THAN I AM!

HAI, LITTLE BEAVER! YOU NO BE BIG HERO *THIS* TIME! PO-KO IS ONE WHO GO GET-UM SHERIFF! SAVE-UM LITTLE BEAVER'S HIDE!

HO! YOU HEAP SILLY LITTLE SQUAW! *ME* CATCH-UM BAD MAN ALL BY LONESOME!..

ME BE SHERIFF, MEBBE, WHEN GROW BIG!

LATER...

YOU HEAP FINE BOY... SHARE REWARD WITH POOR CHARLIE ONE-SLEEP! HEAP THANK-UM

HEAP WEL-COME! NOW CHARLIE HAVE NEW GUN AND PLENTY BUL-LETS!

UGH...YES! ONLY TROUBLE BE NOW... NO MORE BANK ROBBUMS TO HUNT!

CHEER-UM UP, CHARLIE!.. SHOOT-UM-UP TIN CANS! *THEY* NO *SHOOT BACK!*

LITTLE BEAVER

COME ON, PO-KO! WE TAKE-UM SHORT CUT TO VILLAGE ACROSS OLD RANCH WHERE NOBODY LIVE ANY MORE../

NO! ME NOT DO-UM! EVERYBODY SAY THAT CABIN HAUNTED ME 'FRAID../

by RED HARMAN

YOU HEAP SILLY, PO-KO! EVEN IF CABIN HAUNTED, IT NOT BOTHER US IN DAY-LIGHT! AND WE WANT-UM WELCOME STRONG BEAR HOME, QUICK!

YES! BUT STRONG BEAR AWAY AT WHITE MAN'S SCHOOL FOR FIVE YEARS../

SO ME CAN TAKE AN HOUR LONGER TO GO-UM HOME ON ROAD INSTEAD OF PAST HAUNTED CABIN!

WELL, YOU GO FIRST! ME STAY-UM BEHIND, AND...

VEE-AI!

BANG

LITTLE BEAVER! ARE YOU HURT?... LITTLE BEAVER!

STOP-MAKE-UM WILD YELLS! ME ALL RIGHT! BULLET MISS-UM ME!

HUMPH! WELL, NOW MAYBE YOU LISTEN-UM TO ME AND COME HOME BY ROAD!

OH, NO, ME DON'T! ME FIND-UM OUT WHO SHOOT AT ME AND... WHY!

WHY YOU NOT DO-UM LIKE ME ASK SOME TIME, JUST ONCE..!

THIS HEAP STRANGE! WHY ANYBODY WANT-UM SHOOT AT ME..?

ME HEAR-UM FOOT-STEPS! AND THEY COME THIS WAY..!

THERE HIM ARE! AND ABOUT MY SIZE, TOO... ME SURPRISE HIM AND TAKE-UM RIFLE AWAY, QUICK!

GIVE-UM ME THAT..!

IT'S AN INJUN RAID! RUN FER TH' CAB.N, KIDS! I'LL TRY TO HOLD TH' VARMINTS OFF!

SCALP ME IF YOU LIKE, BUT LET TH' YOUNG'UNS GO! PLEASE, MISTER INJUN!

WHAT GO-UM ON HERE?

M-ME NOT KNOW, PO-KO! **YOU** TALK TO LITTLE WHITE SQUAW!

I...I'M ANNIE JONES! PA'S SICK, SO I GOTTA LOOK AFTER TH' YOUNG'UNS, AN' I GUESS I GOT KINDA SCAIRT..!

WELL, ME NOT SURPRISED...!

STAY-UM IN OLD CABIN ENOUGH TO SCARE ANYBODY!

WHY, IT'S A PURTY PLACE! PA BOUGHT IT YESTERDAY; FROM A FELLER NAME OF CYRUS RING..!

WE PAID FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS...ALL TH' MONEY WE HAD/ SOON AS PA'S WELL, WE'RE GONNA RAISE CATTLE.

UH, PO-KO... ME WANT-UM TALK TO YOU!

ME KNOW SUPPLIES ON OUR PONIES BE FOR WELCOME HOME FEAST FOR STRONG BEAR! BUT...

THEY'RE NICE FOLKS SO WATCH YER MANNERS!

ME WAY 'HEAD OF YOU! WE USE-UM INSTEAD TO FEED HUNGRY CHILDREN!

A LITTLE LATER....

I'LL TAKE THIS TO PA BEFORE I EAT!

AI-EE! YOU FEEL-UM HEAP GOOD, LIKE ME, LITTLE BEAVER?

ME 'FRAID NOT, PO-KO!

HUH? WHY NOT?

BECAUSE ME KNOW-UM WHO OWN THIS PLACE...AND HIS NAME NOT CYRUS RING!

REAL OWNER BE-UM ABNER TEWKS!

AI-EE! ME HEAR HIM MEAN, STINGY MAN!

MISTER LITTLE BEAVER, PA'D LIKE TO SEE YOU, PLEASE!

I CAN'T SAY HOW MUCH I THANK YOU, YOUNG FELLER...!

MISTER JONES, ME 'FRAID SOMEBODY CHEAT-UM YOU OUT OF YOUR MONEY...!

LITTLE BEAVER, COME QUICK!

UGH! ABNER TEWKS! AND HIM NOT LOOK LIKE HIM PAY-UM FRIENDLY VISIT, EITHER!

SO! TRESPASSIN' ON MY LAND, HUH? WELL, I'LL SOON PUT A STOP TO THAT!

LOAD UP THEIR WAGON AN' CLEAR 'EM OUTA HERE, FAST!

NO! YOU CAN'T! PA'S SICK!

OH, NO? WELL, IF HE CAN'T WALK, WE'LL DRAG HIM!

"LITTLE BEAVER, DO-UM SOME-'THING!

NOT NOW, PO-KO..!

YOU HEAP MEAN MAN! TAKE-UM THAT!

OW! WHY, YUH LITTLE WILDCAT..!

RUN, PO-KO! QUICK!

WHY WE MAKE-UM RUNAWAY? ME WANT TO STAND AND HELP..!

BEST WAY TO HELP BE TO FIND-UM OUT FIRST WHAT THIS ALL ABOUT!

WHAT WE DO NOW, LITTLE BEAVER?

WE FOLLOW-UM ABNER TEWKS!

AN HOUR LATER...

LOOK! HERE COME 'NOTHER MAN TO JOIN-UM THEM!

YES! AND ME THINK ME KNOW WHO HIM BE! WE GET CLOSE AND LISTEN-UM GOOD!

RING, FOR A GREENHORN NEW TO THIS COUNTRY, YUH'RE SURE SLICK! YUH SELL MY RANCH TO A SUCKER, AN' I RUN HIM OFF..!

YEAH! AN' WE CAIN DO IT AGAIN...SOON AS I FIND ANOTHER SUCKER!

HEY! LOOK! THERE'S THEM TWO LITTLE INJUNS!

WHY, TH' SNOOPIN' BRAT$! RUN 'EM OUTA HERE!

M-ME THINK WE BETTER GO 'WAY FAST, LITTLE BEAVER!

WHEW! ME THINK THEY NEVER STOP CHASE-UM US!

NOW WE GO TO VILLAGE AND SEE-UM HEADMAN! HIM DO-UM SOMETHING...ME HOPE!

LATER, AT THE NAVAJO VILLAGE...

YOU COME SO LATE WITH SUPPLIES WE NOT HAVE FEAST FOR STRONG BEAR UNTIL TOMORROW!

ME HEAP SORRY, HEADMAN! AND ME EXPLAIN WHY WE LATE..!

AFTER LITTLE BEAVER TELLS HIS STORY TO THE HEADMAN...

NO, LITTLE BEAVER! ME HEAP SORRY FOR POOR WHITE PEOPLE, BUT..!

MAYBE YOU CAN MAKE ABNER TEWKS GIVE-UM BACK MONEY HIM STEAL FROM PA JONES..?

ME NO CAN INTERFERE IN WHITE MEN'S BUSINESS UNLESS MY PEOPLE BE IN TROUBLE / YOU UNDERSTAND?

Y-YES, HEADMAN!

WH-WHAT WE DO NOW?

ME NOT KNOW..!

HELLO, YOU TWO!

OH... HOW, STRONG BEAR!

WELL, THAT'S A MIGHTY COOL RECEPTION, AFTER FIVE YEARS AWAY AT LAW SCHOOL!

WE GLAD TO SEE YOU, BUT WE HEAP WORRIED!

LITTLE BEAVER TELLS STRONG BEAR THE STORY...

.. SO NOW WE NOT KNOW HOW TO HELP POOR JONESES!

LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO PRACTICE LAW SOONER THAN I PLANNED! BUT WE'LL NEED WHAT WHITE MAN CALL "EVIDENCE"!

YOU SAY RING MEANS TO TRY THE SAME THING AGAIN... AND IS NEW TO THIS COUNTRY?

WELL, ABNER TEWKS CALL-UM HIM GREENHORN!

THEN MAYBE WE **CAN** GET THAT MONEY BACK! BUT I'LL NEED A WAGON...AND SOME INDIAN CLOTHES!

ME GET-UM WAGON!

AND ME BORROW-UM CLOTHES FROM MY BROTHER!

NEXT DAY...

I'M GOING TO USE SOME MONEY I MADE IN THE EAST AS BAIT FOR THAT CROOK! BUT I MIGHT HAVE TO WAIT AROUND QUITE AWHILE BEFORE HE SHOWS UP..!

HERE COMES SOME-BODY NOW!

AND HIM CYRUS RING!

YOU KIDS STAY PUT AND LET ME DO ALL THE TALKING!

MAKING MONEY IN THIS COUNTRY IS EASY ..! IF YOU'RE SMART, LIKE ME!

HEY! WHO'S THAT AT THE CABIN?

WHAT IN BLAZES ARE YOU DOING ON MY RANCH?

ME LOOK FOR LAND TO BUY! AND ME GOT MONEY TO PAY-UM CASH../

ME GOT SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS! YOU WANT-UM SELL YOUR RANCH?

SIX HUNDRED../ UH, WELL, I *HAD* FIGURED TO GET MORE, BUT...

FOR THAT MUCH CASH, IT'S A DEAL! GIVE ME YOUR MONEY AND MOVE RIGHT IN!

FIRST YOU GIVE-UM ME PAPER, SAY-UM IT YOUR RANCH AND YOU TAKE-UM MY MONEY FOR 'IT!

A RECEIPT, HUH? SURE! KINDA SMART-LIKE FOR AN INJUN, AIN'TCHA?

TEWKS CAN GET IT BACK WHEN HE RUNS HIM OFF!

MAKE-UM IT OUT TO GEORGE STRONG BEAR!

GIVE ME THE MONEY, NOW! I'M IN A HURRY!

STICK AROUND, RING! YOU'RE GOING WITH US... TO TOWN!

HUH? WHAT THE../ IT'S THOSE TWO SNOOPING KIDS! AND YOU AIN'T NO STUPID INJUN!

YOU'RE THE STUPID ONE! THERE'S A LAW AGAINST SELLING LAND TO INDIANS.. EVEN WHEN YOU OWN IT! AND UNCLE SAM MADE THAT LAW!

WE'RE TAKING YOU TO THE U S. MARSHALL../

OH, NO, YOU AIN'T!

LOOK-UM OUT, STRONG BEAR!

I THOUGHT YOU'D TRY THAT! I LEARNED TO FIGHT AT THE WHITE MEN'S SCHOOL, TOO!

OW!

ME GOT-UM PAPER!

GET UP! YOU'RE GOING TO DO SOME TALKING... THEN WE'RE GOING AFTER TEWKS!

SOMEBODY COME, RIDE-UM FAST!

AI-EE! ABNER TEWKS AND HIS MEN!

RUN, LITTLE BEAVER! GET AWAY!

ME TRY!

GRAB THAT KID, TEWKS! HE'S GOT A PAPER THAT I SIGNED THAT CAN LAND US ALL IN JAIL!

GOT HIM, TEWKS!

BRING HIM HERE! I WANT THAT PAPER, QUICK!

ULP!

HE AIN'T GOT NO PAPER, TEWKS... ANYWHERE!

YEAH? WHAT DID YUH DO WITH IT, KID?

ME NOT TELL YOU!

I'LL GIVE YUH ONE LAST CHANCE! TELL ME!

HEY! I HEARD SOMETHING!

ME, TOO!

HEADMAN! AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU!

NAVAJOS! DOZENS OF 'EM!

NOW, **MY** PEOPLE IN TROUBLE, SO ME INTERFERE! WHAT WE DO WITH BAD WHITE MEN, STRONG BEAR?

WELL, THEY OUGHT TO GO TO JAIL... BUT IF TEWKS WILL SIGN OVER THE DEED FOR THIS RANCH TO THE JONES FAMILY../

YEAH! SURE! I'VE GOT IT RIGHT HERE!

NOW WE FIND JONESES AND BRING-UM BACK! EVERYTHING END-UM UP FINE!

IT NEARLY END-UM UP OTHER WAY, THOUGH!

HUH? WHAT YOU MEAN?

WELL, WHEN BAD MAN THROW-UM ROPE, ME PUT-UM PAPER IN MOUTH ... AND SWALLOW IT!

A LITTLE LATER...

THEY'RE NICE PEOPLE! I'M GLAD WE COULD HELP THEM!

ME, TOO! BUT...HOW DID HEADMAN SHOW-UM UP AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME..?

OH, ME ARRANGE-UM THAT!

ME TELL-UM HEADMAN LAST NIGHT WHAT YOU PLAN TO DO, AND ASK-UM HIM TO COME, TOO... JUST IN CASE!

WELL...ME GOT TO ADMIT THIS ONE TIME THAT ONE SQUAW SMARTER THAN TWO BRAVES!

RIGHT, LITTLE BEAVER

LITTLE BEAVER

by FRED HARMAN

LOOK, PO-KO... WILD PONIES! COME ON... WE GO CATCH-UM ONE!

YOU MEAN WE CATCH-UM TWO... AND THE FIRST ONE BELONG TO ME!

AND IF WE CATCH-UM ONLY ONE, HIM STILL BELONG TO YOU, HUH?

AFTER ALL, ME BE ONLY WEAK SQUAW, AND IT BE BRAVE'S DUTY TO GIVE-UM ME FIRST CHOICE!

HMPH! BRAVE BE-UM WEAK ONE, EVERY TIME SQUAW START-UM SOFT TALK!

WILD PONIES SEE US! RIDE FAST, LITTLE BEAVER!

CUT-UM TWO PONIES OUT OF HERD! DRIVE-UM BACK!

YOU NOT HAVE TO YELL ORDERS! ME KNOW WHAT TO DO!

AI-EE! THEY MAKE-UM TURN-AROUND! RIDE AWAY QUICK, PO-KO!

YOU DO-UM SAME THING! NO SLOW DOWN TO WORRY ABOUT ME!

WILD PONIES BE HEAP DANGEROUS WHEN THEY MAKE-UM STAMPEDE! ME HOPE THEY NOT CATCH UP WITH US!

CALICO SLOW-UM DOWN, LITTLE BEAVER!... NO CAN RUN MUCH MORE!

HEAD FOR RIDGE, PO-KO! IF WE CLIMB-UM THAT QUICK ENOUGH, WE BE SAFE!

WHEW! THAT BE-UM HEAP CLOSE!

ME NOT WANT TO MAKE-UM STOP! ME WANT TO CHASE WILD PONIES AGAIN!

WE CHECK-UM UP FIRST ON PONY WE ALREADY HAVE, PO-KO!

CALICO LOOK-UM ALL RIGHT TO ME!

YOU INFERNAL INJUN KIDS!

WHY DIDN'T YOU LEAVE THOSE PONIES ALONE?

HUH? THEY BE WILD PONIES... ANYBODY CAN CHASE-UM!

I KNOW THEY'RE WILD! I'VE BEEN TRAILING THEM FOR OVER A WEEK!

WE NOT SEE YOU...! WE BE SORRY WE MAKE YOU LOSE-UM BIG CATCH!

THAT DOESN'T HELP NOW! JUST DON'T CHASE THOSE PONIES AGAIN! COME ON, BARNES, LET'S GO!

SURE, BOSS!

BETTER DO WHAT HE SAID, YOUNG 'UNS! HE'S A NICE FELLER, USUALLY... BUT HE WANTS TO CATCH THEM PONIES AWFUL BAD!

SEVERAL MOMENTS LATER...

WE GOT-UM AS MUCH RIGHT AS WHITE MEN TO CHASE WILD PONIES!...

BUT WE NOT WANT-UM ANY TROUBLE, SO WE GO HOME!...

CALICO! WHAT BE-UM WRONG WITH YOU NOW?

EE-YA! / LITTLE BEAVER!

PICK OUT SOFT SPOT FOR SIT-UM DOWN, PO-KO!

YOU BE-UM ALL RIGHT?

SOMETHING MAKE-UM CALICO BUCK! MAYBE YOU!...

WHY WOULD ME DO FOOL-ISH THING LIKE THAT?

AI-EE! LOOK! BOAT SCARE-UM CALICO! NO LET IT CATCH ME!

BOAT? PO-KO NOT LAND-UM ON HEAD, BUT HER SOUND LOCO ANYWAY!

AHOY THERE, MATEY!

ME SEE-UM... BUT ME NOT KNOW WHETHER TO BELIEVE-UM!

LAY ALONGSIDE, MATEY, TO TAKE A LINE!

I'M CAP'N BEN SILVER. BOUND FOR CALIFORNY IN MY TRIM CRAFT, THE NANCY! WE GOT BLOWN OFF OUR COURSE!

OH! YOU MEAN YOU BE LOST?

AYE! I'M HUNTIN' EAGLE PASS!

IT BE-UM THAT WAY!

PSST! CAN ME COME AND LOOK-UM AT BOAT, LITTLE BEAVER?

HEAVE TO, LASS, AN' CAP'N BEN WILL HAND YE ABOARD HIMSELF!

TEE-HEE! HIM TALK FUNNY... BUT NICE!

WITH A GOOD WIND, SHE'LL OUTRUN AN ANTELOPE!

WELL, PO-KO, IT BE-UM TIME TO RETURN TO VILLAGE...!

NO!

ME WANT-UM RIDE ON BOAT!

BUT HIM NOT INVITE US!

SHIVER MY TIMBERS, IF I AIN'T PLUMB FORGOT MY MANNERS!

YOU LAY AFT, MISS, AN' I'LL CAST OFF!

HUH?

HIM MEAN YOU GET-UM RIDE / SIT DOWN!

WHEE! THIS BE HEAP WONDERFUL!

YOU SAID-UM IT!

LOOK-TO NOW... I'M COMIN' ABOUT!

MEANWHILE...

THERE'S THE HERD! I'LL START THEM RUNNING, BARNES! YOU COME AROUND FROM THE OTHER SIDE AND PUSH THEM TOWARD OUR TRAP!

OKAY, BOSS, I'M ON MY WAY!

OH! ME FEEL-UM SORRY THAT TRIP SOON BE OVER!

WELL, ME AND THE NANCY HAVE GOT TO HEAD ON FOR CALIFORNY, LASS!

HAI-YAH! HAI-YAH! GET GOING, YOU BROOMTAILS!

AI-EE! THERE BE-UM WILD PONIES AGAIN!

YES! AND WHITE MAN WHO GOT-UM SO MAD AT US!

WHAT IN BLAZES...? HEY! GET THAT CRAZY CONTRAPTION OUT OF THE WAY!

WHAT'S HE YELLING?

TURN-UM BOAT, QUICK... AWAY FROM PONIES!

NO! IF YOU DO, WE RUN INTO CANYON!

I'VE GOT TO OUTRUN THOSE PONIES BEFORE THEY CROWD ME INTO THAT CANYON!...

GREAT GUNS! PRAIRIE DOG HOLES!

STEER-UM BOAT AT HIM!

THAT I WILL, LAD! YOU GIVE HIM A HAND ABOARD!

GRAB-UM TIGHT, LITTLE BEAVER!

ME TRY TO DO-UM THAT!

HEY! CATCH-UM HOLD AS WE GO BY!

I'LL MAKE IT, YOUNG 'UN! LET GO!

IF ME DO, YOU FALL OFF! PO-KO, LEND-UM A HAND!

THANKS KIDS... FOR A SECOND I THOUGHT I WAS A GONER, SURE!

WE NOT BE SAFE YET!

MAYBE PONIES PUSH-UM US INTO CANYON!

I'LL BE KEELHAULED IF I EVER THOUGHT ANY CRAFT OF MINE WOULD BE NEARLY PUT ON THE ROCKS BY **HORSES!**

WE MADE IT!

LOOK! NOW PONY HERD START TO TURN-UM IN NEW DIRECTION!

BARNES IS PUSHING 'EM FROM BEHIND... STRAIGHT TOWARD OUR TRAP!

WHERE BE-UM TRAP? MAYBE WE COULD HELP DRIVE PONIES... WITH BOAT!

YEAH, SKIPPER, COULD YOU DO THAT?

SET ME A COURSE, MATEY, AND I'LL SAIL THE NANCY ANYWHERE!

HA!-YAH! HA!-YAH!

GET-UM IN TRAP, PONIES!

THIS BE MOST EXCITEMENT ME EVER HAVE!

YOU CLOSE ONE GATE, YOUNG'UN! I'LL CLOSE THE OTHER!

SURE! WE DO-UM HEAP QUICK, AND YOU NOT LOSE-UM SINGLE PONY!

BOSS, IF WE EVER TELL ANYBODY THAT WE CAUGHT THESE CAYUSES WITH A **BOAT**... WELL, WE'D JUST BETTER NOT!

I WON'T TELL IF YOU WON'T, BARNES!

NOW ROPE OUT THE TWO PRETTIEST PONIES IN THAT BUNCH... AS PRESENTS FOR MY YOUNG INJUN FRIENDS.

RIGHT AWAY!

AI-EE! THAT MAKE-UM PO-KO HEAP HAPPY!... ME, TOO!

FAREWELL, MATEYS!

ME WISH HIM COULD STAY AND MAKE-UM VISIT WITH US!

WELL, HIM BE-UM IN BIG HURRY TO SAIL TO CALIFORNIA... AND ME BETCH-UM HIM GET THERE, TOO!

The Sacred Navajo Ram

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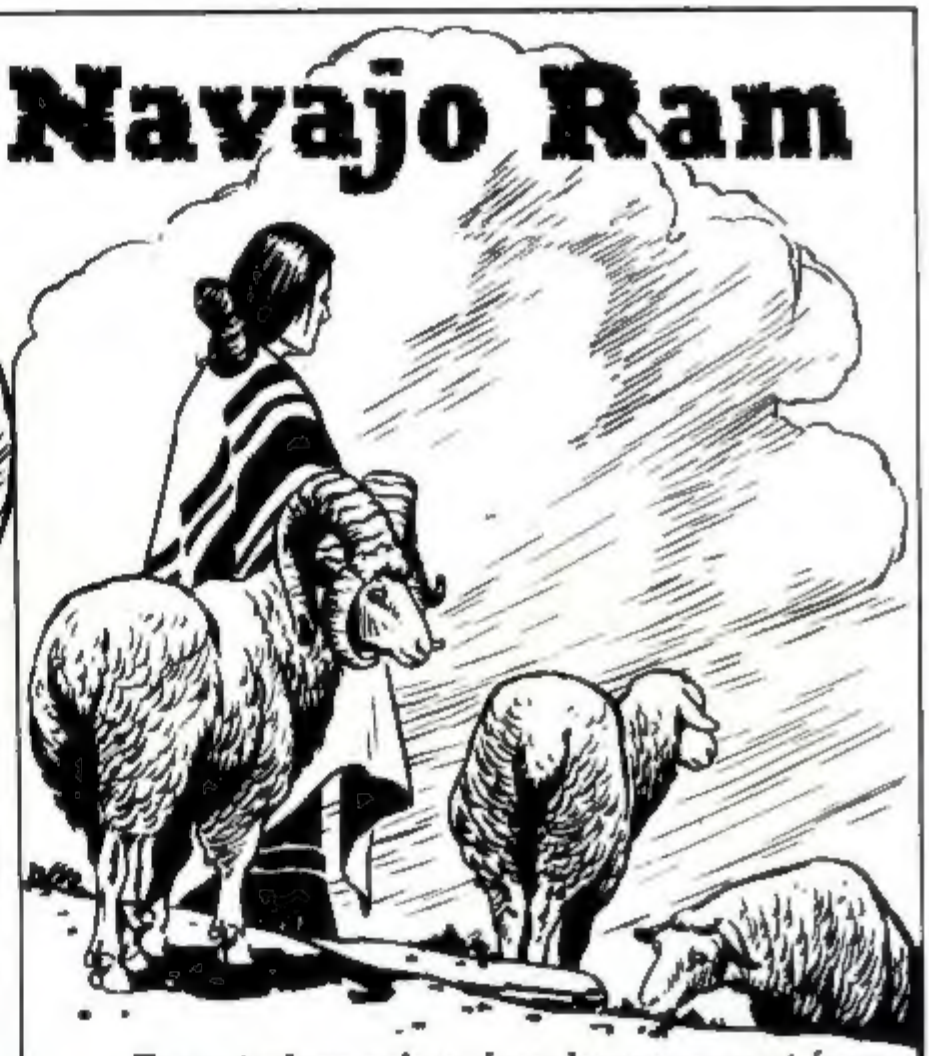
Few stories are as mysterious as the legend of Denetsah Bideen, the sacred white ram of the Navajos. For these strange rams do exist among the Navajo flocks and are distinguished by four great looping horns instead of the usual two which are common to all other horned sheep.

Ages ago, according to the legend, the Navajo people were betrayed and rendered destitute by Naxo'ilpai, the Gambler of Kinteel. After this, the gods instructed their people to journey to the hogan of Naxo'ilpai (New Mexico), and to take away many of Naxo'ilpai's ewes. "From these ewe sheep," said the gods, "will come the sacred ram of four horns to bring prosperity to the Navajos." Such rams were born, and the joyous Navajos tended their flocks, made rugs and prospered.



Even today, when four horns sprout from the head of a male lamb, its happy owner cries, "Behold! It is Denetsah Bideen, the sacred ram of the gods. The flock is blessed, and it will prosper and bring great riches and power."

Once fierce, nomadic raiders, the Navajos now weave rugs and blankets, make hammered silver jewelry, and tend their flocks, while they wait for Denetsah Bideen to appear among the male lambs, for they believe the sacred ram is a sign of perpetuity.

The raccoon-like animal at the left is known as a cacomisle. The skunk is the western, spotted variety, markedly different from the eastern striped skunk which has one broad stripe. Standing up on its forelegs is the skunk's "warning".

Courtesy of the American Museum of Natural History, N. Y.